

I was employed full time in the broadcast business from 1975-2001. During that period of time, while the number of radio stations in my geographic area actually increased [docket 80-90], the number of local programming choices have actually decreased. Today, there are numerous frequencies all airing essentially the same programming, some of it originating from far outside the local market and without any local relevance whatsoever. For instance... in the immediate local area, there are three primary local radio stations, WDNH-FM, WPSN-AM, and WYCY-FM. In this immediate local area, they are pretty much the only signals, due to terrain, that are received directly over the air. All three of these stations now are under the same ownership, programmed by the same people, from the same location. While I'm certain that this offers great operating economy, I feel that it is extremely dangerous, considering that there is now only one local editorial point of view being provided on the newscasts on the only three local voices. While I understand and support the commission's consolidation rulings for the most part, especially in larger, more metropolitan markets, I at the same time, believe the commission should re-evaluate and perhaps rescind some previous decisions concerning consolidation in many of the smaller markets.